



# The Region Record

Vol. XXIII No. 2 Spring 2010

## Chairman's Column

### Spring Time:

The time of year to get out of the house, as the last of the snow piles disappears, load up the car and drive to the joint meeting of the Virginia Region and the Mid-Appalachian Region, being held in Lewisburg, West Virginia, in late May.

The plans have something for everyone. Cave trips! This is the time to see the other cavers who, like you, have put away the coats and gloves and want to go caving, or come to the fire and find out about the new-found caves. Yes, there have been new caves found in the region. You haven't heard about them! Then come to the VAR/MAR and find out about them.

The VAR needs host groups for the fall meet and beyond— talk it over and plan a meet to show off an area in the region, do some conservation work, get help with your projects, go caving, be with friends. You don't have to reinvent the wheel, a guide to host an event is on the Web site. It can be fun and is a way to fund your projects.

There is a project coming up before the VAR/MAR— at Grand Caverns on Easter weekend, April 3-4. This is a conservation event where cavers will be helping maintain the cave and property. Come out and get involved.

White-Nose Syndrome isn't going away anytime soon. People have written about what they think is going on, but the only thing that has been proved in the lab is that bats transfer WNS to other bats. No other means have been proved. So let's not talk about what might be, let's deal with facts. My recommendations are: 1) Clean your gear. 2) Stay out of bat caves during the winter. 3) If you cave in a WNS-positive state stay in the area; 4) Report any new positive sites. 5) Let's keep caving.

The caves on public land are still closed. The caves on private land are open with land owner permission. There is no proof that cavers have helped spread the WNS from area to area.

*Craig*

## WVCC Reopens Most of Its Caves

from the VAR e-mail list

The five caves that the West Virginia Cave Conservancy owns have no significant bat populations. Because of this the Conservancy has decided to reopen these caves, which are closed due to White-Nose Syndrome (WNS). At the Conservancy's Board meeting on March 20, 2010, the WVCC Board voted to adopt the following access policy for all but

two of the Conservancy's properties:

1. The caves are open to qualified non-commercial visitors proving that equipment and gear is fully decontaminated before and after each trip following the protocol established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. There are no exceptions to this rule, including vertical gear.
2. Cavers from areas not contaminated by WNS are strongly discouraged from visiting WVCC properties because of the small possibility of spreading WNS back to an uncontaminated area.
3. This policy takes effect on May 15, 2010. The caves remain closed until then.
4. The WVCC Board will consider a winter closure policy at its next Board meeting. Any future closure decisions will be based on factual information provided by the wildlife management and biological researchers.

The caves to be reopened include:

- Donaldson Cave (Berkeley County, WV)
- Island Ford Cave (Alleghany County, VA)
- Lightner Entrance to McClung Cave (Greenbrier County, WV)
- Maxwellton Sink Cave (Greenbrier County, WV)
- Persinger Entrance to Benedict Cave (Greenbrier County, WV)

(continued on page 3)

# The *Region Record*

The *Region Record* is the quarterly publication of the Virginia Region of the National Speleological Society. Any articles, announcements, or other materials of general interest to cavers in the Region are welcome. **Send all material to Bob Hoke (6304 Kaybro St., Laurel, MD 20707 (301)725-5877, e-mail editor@varegion.org).** Electronic submissions (e-mail or disk) are encouraged, but any form of input is welcome. Non-copyrighted material contained in the *Region Record* may be reprinted by organizations that are affiliated with the VAR or the NSS, provided that proper credit is given to the *Record* and the author. The opinions expressed herein are those of the individual author, and do not necessarily reflect those of the editors, the VAR, the NSS, or their internal organizations.

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## Region Record Subscriptions

- New NSS members in the Region receive two complimentary copies of the *Region Record*.
- Current NSS members moving into the Region from elsewhere receive two complimentary copies. Current NSS members who move within the Region get no freebies.
- When a subscription is going to expire the last issue will be stamped "Time to Renew." No renewal notice is sent.
- When a person attends a VAR meeting he/she is automatically added to the list to receive the next four issues. If he/she is already on the list, four additional issues are added to the subscription.
- When multiple people live at the same address only one copy of each issue will be sent to the address unless a box requesting individual issues is checked on the VAR registration form or a request is sent to the Circulation Manager.

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## Regional Calendar

June. 15 **Deadline** for submitting material for the Summer issue of the *Region Record*.

information and registration form in this issue

Apr. 3-5 **Grand Caverns Easter Restoration Weekend.** Many many projects and great food. Contact Meredith Hall Weberg at merecaver@yahoo.com for info.

Aug. 2-6, 2010 **NSS Convention** in Essex Junction, Vermont.

May 1 **Deadline** for preregistering for the Spring VAR meeting. You must preregister to get a guidebook.

May 1 Spring WVASS meeting at Bill Balfour's house in Frankford, W. Va. See more information in this issue.

May 21-23, 2010 **Spring VAR meeting** in Fairlea, West Virginia. (near Lewisburg). See

### List Your Event Here

If you have a caving event that is of regional interest please send information to the Editors listed above so it can be included in the calendar.

**WVCC**

(continued from page 1)

The Conservancy manages three other caves:

- Haynes Cave is currently open at its owner's request. Access to Haynes will follow the access policy above.
- Rapps Cave is currently closed (and gated) to protect cultural resources. It will remain closed.
- Lobelia Saltpeter Cave is owned by the Southeastern Cave Conservancy (SCCi) and will remain closed unless SCCi requests a change in status. (The cave may have been a hibernaculum for Indiana bats in the past, but none have been seen in recent years).

Future changes to the access status of the Conservancy's caves will be posted on the Conservancy's Web site, [www.wvcc.net](http://www.wvcc.net).

## Virginia Speleological Survey Seeks Permanent Home

by Rick Lambert  
President, VSS

For the past 56 years, the state cave/karst database and library for Virginia has been stored in spare rooms and basements in Virginia, Maryland, and even Indiana. This is probably true for most of the Virginia Region grotto "libraries." The unfortunate result of this practice is that, little by little, our historic records and documents are being lost. In 2007, the Virginia Speleological Survey (VSS) decided to explore the possibility of establishing a permanent site to build a research headquarters and library.

Henry Douglas directed the Virginia Cave Survey and collected a significant quantity of cave data for years before authoring *Caves of Virginia* in 1964. Dr. John Holsinger took over the survey from Douglas in 1965, and after another 10 years of extensive cave investigations and surveys, authored *Descriptions of Virginia Caves* in 1975. At that time, Phil Lucas accepted the challenge of directing the Virginia Cave Survey with the primary goal of collecting, protecting and storing the growing amounts of data about Virginia's caves. That was over 35 years ago.

Phil was the first president of the Virginia Speleological Survey. By this time, it was recognized that publishing another book with locations and detailed descriptions of Virginia caves was not a good idea. The amount of material collected from the early days of the NSS (they did much of their caving in Virginia) and through the Douglas-Holsinger era of Virginia caving is considerable. The amount of information collected during the last 35 years of the "Lucas Era" of the VSS is even more immense. The maps alone number in the thousands. The files and database contain information on over 4500 caves and karst features.

Phil and Charlotte Lucas have collected, housed and maintained the database and the VSS Library since 1975. Their life-long commitment and achievements in preserving Virginia's cave and karst data is unparalleled. As a result, the directors of the Virginia Speleological Survey have decided to name the newly proposed research headquarters and library "The Phil and Charlotte

Lucas Center for Virginia Cave and Karst Studies."

The project has progressed to the point that a building site has been offered in Monterey, Virginia, architectural drawing have been produced, and the task of raising money has begun. We are also seeking partners to help build this research headquarters and library. The project is such that we believe it can accommodate the needs of many of the caving organizations (or individuals?) that might want to partner with us.

The Virginia Speleological Survey is inviting all the Virginia Region organizations to consider whether or not they need a permanent, climate controlled, and secure site to store their records or house their libraries. Those organizations that have these needs are welcomed to contact us. At an upcoming VAR, we will give a more in-depth report and take questions.

## Wind Turbines and Bats

by George Dasher

The January 12th Charleston Gazette contained an article that said the developer of a 23-turbine wind farm in Mineral County must study bat and bird mortality for three years after the construction, and set aside funds in case the project is decommissioned. These conditions were set by the Public Service Commission in approving the \$131 million project, and are similar to the conditions placed on other wind farms in the state. In December, a federal judge halted construction of a 119-turbine wind farm in Greenbrier County, citing the Endangered Species Act because the project was likely to harm bats, and because that project had not obtained an incidental-take permit from the U.S. Fish and

### Spring VAR/MAR

May 21-23, 2010

Fairlea, West Virginia

See the flyer inside the back page for information about the joint VAR/MAR meeting.

Wildlife Service. The judge also barred this company from operating any of its existing 40 turbines between April 1st and November 14th, when the bats are migrating. The conditions placed on the Mineral County developer include complying with the Endangered Species and the Migratory Bird Treaty Acts during both the construction and operation of the wind turbines.

## West Virginia Cave Conservancy and WNS

by John Pearson

All I seem to hear lately is "What are you doing about WNS?" Well the members and the directors of WVCC took a hand in the recent Cave Entrance Survey project that Craig Stihler of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) requested help with in observing the entrances to bat caves in the state. After all, WVCC owns the entrances to two major contact systems in Greenbrier County, helps manage another cave for SCCi in Pocahontas County and helps oversee entrances for local landowners in a working partnership in a third major contact cave system in Greenbrier County.

As everyone everywhere knows, we all had record-setting snowfall this past winter. That kept many of us from getting out and doing much

this winter. So when Craig Stihler announced the Entrance Survey project, Dave Cowan, Carroll Bassett and I made plans to begin checking entrances to caves in the Greenbrier Valley. Working with Stihler and Jeff Hajenga (also of WVDNR), we put together a list of bat caves and other significant caves that we felt should be checked. Of course, WVCC properties would be included in this project.

On February 20th, the first wave of observations was begun, starting with the first of three Nature Conservancy caves, Greenville Saltpeter Cave. Trudging through deep snow, four members visited the Mill Pond Entrance while two other members visited Laurel Creek.

Observations continued for the next month. Twelve WVCC members and directors took place in the project. Bill and Juliet Balfour, Carroll Bassett, Jerry Bowen, Dave Cowen, Ellie Florance, Cliff and Lois Lindsay, Rocky Parsons, Ed Saugstad, Ed Swepston and I spent 185 hours traveling and observing entrances, driving 1,687 miles to visit over 35 cave entrances.

Of particular interest were the WVCC properties, Lightners and Persingers; The Nature Conservancy properties of Piercys, General Davis and Greenville Saltpeter; SCCi property of Lobelia Saltpeter; as well as other significant contact caves and bat caves in the Greenbrier Valley.

Only one cave appeared to have WNS that the team visited, Carpenter Pit, located in Pocahontas

County, just north of the Greenbrier Valley. Jeff Hajenga checked two caves that the team observed that appeared to be negative for WNS. Those caves were Patton Cave and Norman Cave. Both had samples taken and appear to have WNS.

What does this mean to the caving public? If you insist on coming to the Greenbrier Valley to go caving, you should go through decontamination procedures. No "Ifs, Ands, or Buts". Do it. Many of the local landowners are beginning to be upset with "dirty" cavers and expect us to be as concerned about "their" bats as they are.

## Carter Caves Vandals Plead Guilty

supplied by George Dasher

The January 2010 *Carbide Dump* (V45n1p5) reports that two men charged with killing endangered bats at Kentucky's Carter Caves State Park have entered guilty pleas. The two admitted that they had entered the Laurel Cave in October 2007 and knocked more than 100 hibernating Indiana bats from their perches and killed them, crushing them with rocks, flashlights, and their feet. The two men each face up to a year in prison and a fine up to \$1,000.

Carter Caves again: The February 17th *Daily Independent On Line* reports that the lawyer for one of the Carter Caves defendants is arguing that his client deserves leniency in his sentence because of "abuse and neglect he suffered as a child at the hands of alcoholic parents" and because he is a product of a culture that views the "indiscriminate killing" of bats and other animals as acceptable. The lawyer has suggested that his client should receive only a 105-day sentence, one day for each of the bats he killed. He



will also have to write a commentary on the consequences of killing bats for area newspapers, and undergo substance-abuse treatment.

## Vandals Destroy Norman Cave Formations

by Rocky Parsons

Thoughtless vandals recently destroyed ancient cave formations in Norman Cave in Greenbrier County, West Virginia. A very large, beautiful, pagoda-style stalagmite was toppled onto the floor of the cave. Damage was also done to a nearby stalagmite that was haystack-like and topped by a cylindrical stalagmite. The West Virginia Cave Protection Act makes it unlawful to "in any manner destroy, disturb, deface, mar, or harm the surfaces of any cave or any natural material therein, including speleothems." Upon conviction, anyone violating this law can be fined up to \$500 and may be imprisoned for not less than 10 days nor more than six months. The National Speleological Society is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 to anyone providing information leading to the legal conviction of these vandals. If you have any information that can help bring the vandals to justice, please contact Greenbrier County Conservation Officer N. G. Frangos at 304-647-7600.

## Annual Easter Restoration Field Camp at Grand Caverns

by Meredith Hall Weberg

Be sure to put the weekend of April 3-5, 2010, on your calendars now. That is the annual Easter Restoration at Grand Caverns. Plan to arrive on Friday night for some fun and catching up with caver friends. Saturday will find us hauling gravel, scrubbing algae, and whatever else the park needs. Lunch and dinner will be provided by the VAR Conservation Committee.

## Virginia Cave Week 2010

by Meredith Hall Weberg

Mark this on your calendars too: Virginia Cave Week is April 18-24, 2010. Sponsored by the Virginia Cave Board, Cave Week's goal is to educate people about caves and karst areas, particularly teachers and schoolchildren. See the Web page at [www.vacaveweek.com](http://www.vacaveweek.com), which contains numerous links to cave-related Web pages as well as activities teachers can do with students.

Please let me know if you see anything in the newspapers about Virginia Cave Week. It will be interest-

ing to see whether any of them publishes the Cave Board's press release.

## Maryland Karst Survey

by Jim McConkey

The inaugural meeting of the reinvigorated Maryland Karst Survey was convened in Frederick on March 11, 2010, with representatives of five grottoes from across the state in attendance. The Survey's goal is to collect, organize, and eventually publish a comprehensive set of data on Maryland Caves. Yes, *Caves of Maryland, version 3*, might actually happen one of these days. Grottoes are being encouraged to scour their areas to confirm known cave coordinates and to find, map, and describe new caves.

There are going to be several regional directors who will accept reports on the caves and karst features in their areas. More information will be published in upcoming *Region Record* issues, but in the meantime Maryland cavers can start looking for those long-rumored caves and digging through old records to look for references to other caves. Get out, find some caves, take GPS coordinates, draw a sketch, and get involved! Your information will help get this new project off to a good start.



Jim Kramer

## Kentucky WNS News

by George Dasher

Brooke Slack, a biologist with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife, gave an hour-long-plus talk on January 30th on White-nose Syndrome at Carter Caves' "Adventure Weekend." This is the replacement event for the resort park's annual Crawlathon, as all the park's caves are now closed. Much of Brooke's talk was old hat to anyone familiar with the WNS problem; however, there were some new tidbits of information. Some of these included:

- It is now estimated that over a million bats have died from WNS. All six of the Northeast's cave-using bats are affected, and the tricolored (eastern pipistrelle) bats have been hit extremely hard. One problem is that, when bats hibernate, they reduce so many of their body functions that they actually "turn off" much of their immune system. This provides the fungus with a much easier victim to attack.
- This winter, Michigan bats were placed in a Vermont cave where all of that cave's resident bats had died from WNS. The Michigan bats also died, proving that the WNS fungus remains active in the cave even after the original bats using that cave have died.
- *Geomyces destructans* has been confirmed in at least one European cave (in France). Bats with a white fungus believed to be WNS have also been found in approximately six other European countries, but have not yet been tested. The infected European bats do not appear to be dying.
- Although it is speculated that *G. destructans* was brought to the United States by a European visitor, this is not 100% certain. In fact, given that several years have passed since *G. destructans* was first detected in the United States, it is possible that the confirmed fungus found in France somehow originated in North America.
- "Large" European bat colonies typically contain about 30 individuals, whereas North American bat colonies can contain hundreds of thousands of bats. It has been speculated that the European bat colonies are so small because they have already been devastated by WNS, and that the current studies are finding only the survivors. The inventory of bat colonies in Europe only began quite recently, and post date the North American studies.
- At present, many of the caves within the 12 U.S. states affected by WNS are closed via voluntary moratoriums. In addition, many of the caves in the four states surrounding these 12 states are also closed. These four states (as of January) are North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Ohio.
- It has been proven via laboratory work that bats can be infected by WNS by both contact and air transmission. It has not been proven that people can transmit WNS; however, some people have speculated that the "big jump" of WNS from the Northeast to the popular caves in Pendleton County (West Virginia) was caused by someone caving with "dirty gear."
- Kentucky has stepped up its bat studies in preparation for the arrival of WNS. These studies include spot checks of caves and cave entrances for WNS, inventories of the entire caves for bats, "Anabat" acoustic surveys, and the installation of infrared bat counters at cave entrances. Much of this is to give biologists a better idea where to look for the bats, once WNS arrives, but many of the studies are to give them the earliest warning possible when WNS does arrive.

The acoustic surveys have been completed both at cave entrances and by driving the roads at slow speeds, and provide information as to where each species is living. These have been completed in most of the states east of the Mississippi River, but Kentucky has done the most of any state (almost all of which has been completed by caver volunteers). The infrared bat counters provide real-time information on the number of bats flying in and out of the cave, and will provide an "early warning" if large numbers of the bats begin exiting the cave in winter.

New York was the first state to complete Anabat acoustic surveys, and they were fortunate to do this before WNS arrived. The biologists there have been able run Anabat surveys "post WNS," and this has shown that the bats have not moved from one hibernaculum to another. This, unfortunately, proves that the bats are instead "gone"—which means they have died.

[from *The West Virginia Caver*,  
Volume 28, Number 2, April 2010]

## Spring WVASS Meeting

by George Dasher

The Spring meeting of the West Virginia Speleological Survey will be held on May 1st, at 3 pm, at Bill Balfour's home near Frankford.

The agenda will include reports on ongoing speleo work in West Virginia, as well as summaries of proposed and recently completed publications. Everyone with an interest in mapping and inventorying West Virginia's caves and karst should attend, and all area coordinators should give or provide a report.

This is an open meeting, and anyone can attend.

For more information (or directions), contact Bill Balfour at bal4karst@hotmail.com or 304-497-0859.

## VAR Listserv Provides Timely Information

by Bob Hoke

Walt Pirie maintains the VAR listserv. This is a computerized e-mail list that allows any subscriber to easily send e-mail messages to the other subscribers.

The listserv is seeing increasing use as a vehicle for quickly disseminating and/or soliciting information from subscribers throughout the Virginia Region.

Anyone is welcome to subscribe. All you have to do is send an e-mail message to:

**listserv@listserv.vt.edu**

In the body of the message enter:

**sub varlist your name**

That's all you have to do. You will receive a message asking you to confirm your subscription and then you will be a subscriber. The list is not accessible by outsiders and you will not receive any junk e-mail (spam) from it.

Any subscriber may post messages to the list, but the following rules apply:

1. No flaming (personal attacks).
2. No Spam (commercial messages).
3. Do not redistribute a post without the original author's permission.
4. Posts must be relevant to VAR and to caving.

## HELP WANTED (or FREE JOB)

by Meredith Hall Weberg

Does anyone out there want to help out? I've been maintaining the VAR Mailing List for eight years now. I'm getting a bit burned out. It's a pretty easy job and only time-consuming a few times a year. PLEASE let me know that you want to take over. I would love to share the fun! E-mail me or call and I'll tell you what the job entails. Thanks, Meredith.

### If you want to continue receiving the *Region Record*, please read this . . .

If this page is marked "TIME TO RENEW" it means that your *Region Record* subscription has run out and this is the last issue you will receive. Subscriptions are automatically extended when you attend a Spring or Fall VAR meeting, or you can subscribe to the *Region Record*. The last issue you will receive (Volume-Number) is indicated on the top line of your mailing label. More detailed information about subscriptions is listed in the box on page 2.

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Grotto (or other caving organization that I claim as my primary caving affiliation) \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to VAR and send to: **Meredith Hall Weberg, 8061 Kittiwake Ct., Springfield VA 22153**

## Minutes of the Fall VAR Region Meet September 27, 2009

Meeting was called to order at 9:01 am.

### **Secretary** - Carol Tideman

A motion was made by Bubble Cave to accept the minutes as published in the *Region Record*. Pine Mountain seconded. Motion passed.

### **Treasurer** - John Fox

The \$500 grant for the Smithsonian Institution's Virginia Big-ear bat project was not disbursed due to the lack of information regarding where/who it should go to. Bob Hoke and John Pearson will send John the information.

### **Vice Chair** - Judy Fisher

Nothing to report. Judy is in China.

### **Chairman** - Craig Hindman

Reported on awards received by VAR members at the ICS/NSS Convention.

### **Conservation Co-Chair** -

Meredith Hall Weberg  
Karst Trail work was done at the VAR meeting in April. There was algae abatement at Crystal Caverns. Scouts will finish the Cave Hill sinkhole cleanup. Calling for scouts to assist with the Virginia Karst Trail.

### **VAR Outstanding Service**

**Award** - Meredith Hall Weberg  
The Award was given to Bill Royster, John Pearson, and Bob Thren.

### **Landowner Recognition Awards**

- Janet Tinkham

There are two pending nominations to be reviewed by the Committee.

### **Landowner Legal Support Committee** - Bob Hoke

No news is good news.

### **Region Record** - Bob Hoke

Send articles and pictures - Deadline for next issue December 15.

### **VAR List Server** - Walt Pirie

No report.

### **VAR Web site** - Jim McConkey

Nothing new. Trying to put in a new form for contact information.

### **Cave Bucks** - JC Fisher

Send in the money you collect.

### **VSS** - Rick Lambert

Crossroads Cave has been reopened with protocols.

### **WVASS** - George Dasher

No report.

### **WVCC** - John Pearson

The WVCC banquet will be on November 14. The Conservancy is reevaluating its WNS cave closures at each Board meeting. The entrance ladder has been installed in the Scott Entrance to Maxwellton. \$2K is still needed to pay off the loans used to purchase Maxwellton Sink Cave. Fred Grady has reopened Haynes Cave to cavers using decontaminated gear (he's the cave's owner). Elections are in progress.

### **Virginia Karst Program** - Joey Fagan

The EPA is no longer supporting Karst Protection. The funding has been cut. Virginia Heritage is committed to continue using assorted small contracts to support the program. There have been staff reductions.

### **SCCI** - Walt Pirie

No report.

### **Grand Caverns/Cave Hill** - Jim McConkey

The project continues - we will start the sixth year in November.

### **Virginia Cave Board** - Dave Socky

The Board will be putting out a newsletter and is active in Karst Trail work.

### **Virginia Karst Trail** - Joey Fagan

Covered in Conservation report.

### **CCV** - Dave Socky

Election materials have been mailed out. Counts to be performed shortly.

### **Spring Survey Project** - Bob Thren

Sixteen people have been trained and 15 have equipment. Half have started monitoring. Someone is needed to manage the database. Also need someone to write grant requests.

### **Host Report** - BATS and Dingo Grottos

101 in attendance - Thanks for coming to the activities provided. Thanks to the planning committee and thanks to those in charge of projects or trips. New River moves to thank our hosts. Bubble seconded - passed.

### Old Business

**Spring 2010 VAR** - Bubble Cave - will be held at the Fairlea Fairgrounds. Bubble Cave will host the Spring VAR at the fairgrounds in Fairlea WV. May 21-23. It will be on the weekend after the NSS announces its position on WNS. There will be trips to caves that are open.

**WNS** - report given during the event.

**VAR Bailout Fund** - Sligo moved that the VAR create a host grotto bailout fund. FUN seconded - after considerable discussion, FUN moved it be referred to an ad hoc

committee for review. Blue Ridge seconded - motion to refer passed. Committee consists of Jim McConkey, Bob Hoke, Jerry Bowen, and John Pearson. McConkey is the chair

**New Business**

**Host for the Fall 2010 meeting** - none.

**Host for the Spring 2011 meeting** - Frederick is thinking about it.

**Host for the Fall 2011 meeting** - Baltimore is considering.

**Elections** - Blue Ridge moved to reelect the current slate of officers. Bubble seconded. The train whistle blew & the motion was passed.

**Grant Requests** - none received.

**Announcements:**

Janet Tinkham said the NSS Executive Committee will be holding its next meeting at Crystal Caverns at Hupps Hill. There will be a reception in the log cabin at 7 pm.

**Adjournment**

Bubble Cave moved to adjourn, New River seconded. Passed.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:26 am

Respectfully submitted:  
Carol Tideman

# Spring 2010 VAR MEETING AGENDA

Sunday, May 23, 2010 9:00 am

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. DELEGATE REGISTRATION
- III. DISTRIBUTION OF AGENDA
- IV. CALL FOR INDEPENDENTS
- V. OFFICERS REPORTS:
  - A. SECRETARY: Carol Tiderman
    - 1. Motion to accept Fall minutes
    - 2. Other
  - B. TREASURER: John Fox
    - 1. Current financial report
    - 2. Other
  - C. VICE-CHAIR: Judy Fisher
  - D. CHAIRMAN: Craig Hindman
- VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS
  - A. CONSERVATION: Andy Reeder/Meredith Hall Weberg
    - 1. Report on activities
    - 2. Other
  - B. VAR OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD: Meredith Hall Weberg
  - C. LANDOWNER RECOGNITION AWARD: Janet Tinkham
  - D. LANDOWNER LEGAL SUPPORT COMMITTEE: Bob Hoke
  - E. *REGION RECORD*: Bob Hoke, Pauline Apling
  - F. VAR LIST SERVER: Walt Pirie
  - G. VAR WEB SITE: Jim McConkey
  - H. CAVE BUCKS: J.C. Fisher
  - I. VSS: Rick Lambert
  - J. WVASS: George Dasher
  - K. WVCC: Frank Abbato
  - L. VIRGINIA KARST PROGRAM:
  - M. SCCI: Walt Pirie
  - N. GRAND CAVERNS/CAVE HILL: Jim McConkey
  - O. VIRGINIA CAVE BOARD: Tom Lera
  - P. VIRGINIA KARST TRAIL: Andy Reeder
  - Q. CCV
  - R. SPRING SURVEY PROJECT: Charlie Maus
  - S. OTHER \_\_\_\_\_
- VII. HOST GROTTO REPORT: Bubble Cave LLC
- VIII. OLD BUSINESS
  - A. HOST GROTTO FOR THE FALL 2010 MEETING: \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. HOST GROTTO FOR THE SPRING 2011 MEETING: \_\_\_\_\_
  - C. HOST GROTTO FOR THE FALL 2011 MEETING: \_\_\_\_\_
  - D. WNS
  - E. OTHER
- IX. NEW BUSINESS
  - A. \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. \_\_\_\_\_
- X. GRANT REQUESTS: SUBMITTED TO CHAIR
- XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS
- XII. ADJOURNMENT



# SPRING 2010 VAR/MAR MEETING

at the West Virginia State Fairgrounds, Fairlea, WV  
(Near Lewisburg in Greenbrier County)

## May 21-23, 2010

The Bubble Cave LLC invites you to the Spring 2010 joint meeting of the Virginia Region and the Mid-Appalachian Region of the NSS. The event will be held at the West Virginia State Fairgrounds in Fairlea, W. Va. on May 21-23, 2010. There will be caving, dinner, a program, a party, and generally a good time in relaxed atmosphere.

**Why Attend?** If you are new to caving, or you have never attended a VAR meeting, this is a great way to meet other cavers, see some new caves, check out the vendors, and see what is happening in the Region.

**Camping & Facilities:** The Fairgrounds is huge and can accommodate a large crowd (it will be the campground for the 2012 NSS convention). There are flush toilets and hot showers. RVs are welcome, but there are no electric or sewer hookups. Pets are allowed on the site, but must be cared for properly. That means cleaning up afterwards, too.

**Special Cleanup Trip:** There will be a cleanup trip to a trash-filled double sinkhole in Monroe County that has the potential for a cave at the bottom.

**Cave Trips:** Greenbrier and Monroe counties have some of the east coast's best and largest caves. A number of them will be open for led and self-guided trips. To help prevent the spread of White-Nose Syndrome, all cavers must follow established decontamination procedures. A decon facility will be set up in the campground.

**Saturday Dinner:** Dinner will be catered by Bob's Big Beef. Bar-B-Qued beef, pork, fried chicken and all the trimmings, as well as vegetarian entrees will be featured Saturday night. Both Friday and Saturday nights will have the usual caver brew.

**Saturday Evening Program:** Details of the Saturday evening program are still being finalized.

**Vendors:** We expect to have several speleo-vendors, including Inner-Mountain Outfitters, Caver Connection, and Speleobooks. This will be a good opportunity to purchase cave related items.

**Sunday Breakfast:** The Front Royal Grotto will be providing their outstanding breakfast on Sunday morning. The cost is not included in your registration and can be paid on Sunday morning.

**Directions:** Take I-64 to Exit 169 in West Virginia, the Lewisburg exit. Go south on Route 219 4.0 miles to the WV State Fairgrounds and take a right into the camping area just after the pedestrian catwalk over Route 219. Please follow the paved roadways to registration.

**VAR Business Meeting:** The VAR business meeting will be at 9 AM on Sunday. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**More Info:** Check the latest VAR information at

<http://varegion.org/var/events/SpringVAR/SpringVAR.shtml>. If you have any questions please contact John Pearson at 304-497-3939 or [jpearson@rcc.com](mailto:jpearson@rcc.com).

**Registration Deadline and Guidebook:** The Guidebook will contain previously unreleased maps to several significant caves and will be a valuable addition to any caver's library. However, the **Guidebooks will only be printed for those who register early**. The deadline for preregistration is **May 1**.

# Spring 2010 VAR/MAR

## Registration Form

The Spring 2010 VAR/MAR will be held at the West Virginia State Fairgrounds located in Fairlea, W. Va. The Campground is next to Rt 219 in Fairlea W. Va., just south of Lewisburg.

*Guidebooks will only be printed for those who register early.*

Early registration by May 1<sup>st</sup> 2010 - Full = \$30.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
(includes VAR or MAR dues and guidebook) – Please circle VAR or MAR

Early registration by May 1<sup>st</sup> 2010 - under 15 years old = \$23.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
(does NOT include dues or Guidebook)

Early registration by May 1<sup>st</sup> 2010 – Full = \$33.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
(includes both MAR and VAR dues plus guidebook)

On – site registration - Full = \$35.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
(No guidebook)

“ -under 15 = \$28.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to : **Bubble Cave, LLC**

Please fill out a form for each person

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Grotto: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL FORM to Judy Fisher

PO Box 276

Berkeley Springs, WV 25411